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TAFT ATTEMPTS AN EXPLANATION

In Regard To His Letter Exonerating Secretary Ballinger

Admits He Did Not Write Letter.

FORMED OWN OPINION

Told Attorney to Draft Letter Exonerating Ballinger.

REVISED AND SIGNED BRIEF

Also Admits, In Letter to Senator Nelson That He Directed Attorney General Wickersham to Predate Review of Glavis Charges to Correspond With Date of Interview.

Washington, May 16.—Publicly assuming all responsibility for the Lawler memorandum in the Ballinger-Pinchot case, President Taft also took upon his shoulders full responsibility for the pre-dating of the Wickersham opinion. The president admits frankly that he requested Assistant Attorney General Lawler of the interior department to write and prepare "an opinion as if he were president."

The president acknowledges also that he used some sentences of this opinion in his letter exonerating Ballinger. With equal frankness the president says that Attorney General Wickersham's analysis of the evidence in the case was predated under his (the president's) instructions, "so as to show that my decision was fortified by his summary of the evidence and his conclusions therefrom."

Referred to Wickersham. The president makes it clear, however, that he carefully reviewed all the documents and evidence in the Ballinger-Pinchot case and had reached an absolute decision that Mr. Ballinger was guiltless before he instructed Assistant Attorney General Lawler of Mr. Ballinger's office to prepare a letter to be used as the basis of the Taft exoneration. The president declares that he adopted this course merely as a means of saving time for himself, he being rushed with work, and that he had indicated clearly to Lawler what he wished said in the letter. The Lawler document, however, was unsatisfactory to Mr. Taft, and he finally dictated his own letter, using only a few sentences of the Lawler memorandum. The president's statements are contained in a lengthy letter, to Chairman Nelson of the Ballinger-Pinchot investigation committee. It follows:

"The White House, Washington, May 15, 1910. "My Dear Senator Nelson: In the hearings before the committee to investigate the interior department and forestry service, reference has been made to my decision on the complaint and charges of L. R. Glavis filed with me on the 18th of August last against Secretary Ballinger and certain other officials of the interior department. The majority of the committee have decided that my action in this regard was not within the jurisdiction of the committee to investigate. In spite of his ruling, references to the matter have crept into the record. For this reason, I deem it proper to write you and state with what accuracy my memory permits what the facts are.

"Glavis' statement and charges were left with me by him on August

18, 1909. I turned them over to the attorney general, who happened to be in the neighborhood, and he made notes upon his reading. We both had personal knowledge in respect to Secretary Ballinger's attitude towards the Alaska coal claims, which was the chief subject of innuendo and complaint, for Mr. Ballinger had very early in the administration consulted with us both in regard to them.

Discussed Evidence. "Within two or three days after the filing of the charges, in a meeting at which the secretary of the treasury, the attorney general and the secretary of the navy were present, a full discussion of the Glavis statement was had. It resulted in a general conclusion that jealousy between the bureau of the interior department and the forestry bureau probably explained the attitude of the interior department officials, but that the intimations of bad faith by Glavis against Mr. Ballinger requested that the statement be submitted to them for answer. Accordingly, copies of the statement were sent to Secretary Ballinger, to Assistant Secretary Pelce, to Commissioner Dennett and Chief of Field Service Schwartz.

"Mr. Ballinger was at Seattle, but upon receipt of the charges he came to Washington to prepare his answer. On Monday, Sept. 6, Mr. Ballinger reached Beverly, accompanied by Mr. Lawler, the assistant attorney general of the department of justice, assigned to the interior department. Mr. Ballinger sent to my house on that date the answers of the various persons concerned, together with a voluminous record of exhibits. I had a conference with him the evening of the day he came, Sept. 6, and then upon the following evening, Sept. 7, I talked over the charges with Mr. Ballinger the first evening, and asked him questions as suggested themselves without intimating any conclusion, and said that I would examine the answers and the record and would see him the next day. I sat up until 3 o'clock that night reading the answers and exhibits; so that at my next discussion I was advised of the contents of the entire record and had made up my mind that there was nothing in the charges upon which Mr. Ballinger or the others accused could be found guilty of either incompetency, inefficiency, disloyalty to the interests of the government or dishonesty.

Pleads Lack of Time. "In the discussion of the second evening Mr. Lawler, who was present at my suggestion, discussed the evidence at length. I said to Mr. Lawler that I was very anxious to write a full statement of the case and set out the reasons for my decision, but that the time for my departure on a long western trip, occupying two months, was just one week from that day; that I had some six or seven set speeches to deliver at the beginning of that journey, and that I could not give the time to the preparation of such a detailed statement and opinion as I would like to render in the matter. I therefore requested Mr. Lawler to prepare an opinion as if he were president.

"During the 8th, 9th and 10th, I gave such consideration to the Glavis record as was consistent with previous engagements, but paid no attention to the speeches. On the 9th I telegraphed the attorney general to come to Beverly that I might consult with him in regard to the case. He arrived on Saturday afternoon, Sept. 11, and pursuant to an appointment made by telephone he came to my house early on Sunday morning, Sept. 12. He then delivered to me the draft opinion prepared by Mr. Lawler and said that he had had an opportunity on coming from New York to read the answer of Mr. Ballinger and others. I then said to him that I had made up my mind as to my conclusions and had drafted part of my opinion, but that I wished him to examine the full record and bring me his conclusions before I stated mine. He took the whole record away.

"During the day I examined the draft opinion of Mr. Lawler, but its

Latest Photograph Of King George V.



One of the hard points about being a king is having your picture taken. The public demands the king be photographed ever so often. It wants to see if he is changing. If he looks worried or happier. This picture was taken shortly before King George V. was proclaimed. Until after the official term of mourning is over he will not be subjected to posed photographs.

30 pages did not state the case in the way in which I wished it stated. It contained references to the evidence which were useful, but its criticism of Mr. Pinchot and Mr. Glavis I did not think it proper or wise to adopt. I only used a few paragraphs from it, containing merely general statements.

Wickersham Makes Report. "The attorney general returned in the evening with notes of the examination he had made and reported to me the conclusions which he had reached, which were in substantial accord with my own. We then discussed the matter at some length, particularly some points of law which were involved, and took up the opinion which I had finished and made a number of alterations; and as a result of the discussion I determined the final form which I employed and signed the same on Monday, Sept. 13.

"The conclusions which I reached were based upon my reading of the record and were fortified by the oral analysis of the evidence and the conclusions which the attorney general gave me, using the notes which he had made during his reading of the record. I was very sorry not to be able to embody and analyze in my

opinion, but the time did not permit. I therefore directed him to embody in a written summary such analysis and conclusion as he had given me, file it with the record and date it prior to the date of my opinion, so as to show that my decision was fortified by his summary of the evidence and its conclusions therefrom.

Sincerely Yours,
"WILLIAM H. TAFT."

CORRECTS STATEMENT

Kerby Tells What He Meant in His Original Statement.

Washington, May 16.—Stenographer Kerby did some more talking. He had this to say in reference to the statement issued at the White House Saturday in regard to his charges: "I have nothing more to add or take from my original statement. It was my express intention not to say that Lawler dictated the president's letter of Sept. 13. I did specifically say that the draft was prepared for revision—it was typewritten, triple-spaced. It is only just to myself to say that the White House statement denies the thing which I did not charge. I can not go over the subject again in detail except before the proper committee or authorities."

TAYLOR-WEBBER FIGHT HAS HOT FINISH

Columbus, O., May 16.—Miles Poindexter, insurgent, of Washington, in his speech here in behalf of the candidacy of Karl Webber, who is seeking to defeat Representative Edward L. Taylor for re-nomination in the Twelfth district, declared that "under Cannon in the last six years the house of representatives has become no more a really representative body than the duma of Russia, far less than the reichstag of Germany." He charged the speaker's whole work to have been in favor of special interests, that Cannon was against the building of the Panama canal and the conservation of natural resources.

"When old black Joe heard I had pledged myself to vote against him for speaker, he said he would put me on the slaughterhouse committee. I accepted the appointment and have been slaughtering all I could."

Urging the nomination of Karl T. Webber, Poindexter said: "If Taylor said in Washington he was an insurgent it would cause a ha-ha. I wouldn't pretend to be a Cannonite in Washington city and an insurgent in Columbus."

While Poindexter was grating in Memorial hall, Taylor at a meeting in the East Side market house was branding Poindexter as a "mugwump" and southern Democrat at heart, who obeys the dictates of Champ Clark.

He also defended his record, criticized the newspapers and other assailants of the Payne tariff bill, and predicted his own re-nomination and election. Constantly he pointed toward Memorial hall in his exhortation of Poindexter. He said: "If you think Republicans of the Poindexter type are the right kind of leaders, I don't want the nomination." He sought to read the Washington congressman out of the party.

ROOSEVELT IN LONDON

London, May 16.—Mr. Roosevelt arrived here this morning. He was met at Queensborough, where he landed from the continent, by the Earl of Dundonald, representing King George, and Henry White, formerly ambassador to France, on behalf of the United States. They will be attached to Mr. Roosevelt's suite during the funeral ceremonies. Ambassador Reid, members of the embassy and several prominent Americans met Mr. Roosevelt at the Victoria station.

ESCAPED KIDNAPERS

Zanesville, O., May 16.—Hugh Hare, 14, rushed pantingly up to Policeman Zimmer and told him that he had escaped from a man whom, he said, had kidnaped him from his home in Beaver Falls, Pa., April 15. The lad had run for miles clad only in overalls and shirt.

KILLED BY AUTOIST

Akron, O., May 16.—The third child in six weeks met death in the street as the victim of an auto accident. Verna Dunn, 4, daughter of Charles Dunn, manager of a coal company, was struck by an automobile driven by Albert Button, and died while Button was hurrying with the girl to the City hospital. A charge of manslaughter was placed against Button.

THE STORY A HOAX

Zanesville, O., May 16.—The widespread rumor that two Zanesville high school girls are suffering from leprosy is absolutely without foundation, and the report is due to a joking remark. One of the girls, Miss Florence Mathews, 16, used a patent preparation on her feet to prevent perspiration, and when she told her schoolmates that it caused a sore on her foot one of them remarked that she had leprosy. Dr. Matthews, the attending physician, and Health Officer McCormick, vouch for this statement.

DEFYING THE COURTS

Portsmouth, O., May 16.—County authorities caused a big sensation here by defying the courts when Sheriff Gillen and his wife, aided by Probate Judge Beatty, spirited away Frances Rockwell, 16, just as she had been ordered released on habeas corpus proceedings by Circuit Judge Walters of Circleville. She was removed in an automobile from the jail to Clifford and hustled aboard a Norfolk & Western train off for Delaware. Beatty, in the face of strong sentiment for the girl, had committed her to the Girls' Industrial home because, during a recent outing in the Kentucky hills, she had posed for indecent pictures. Her attorneys put up a hard fight for her. Judge Walters, when advised of the sheriff's action, notified the Delaware authorities not to admit the girl to the home.

FATALLY INJURED

Xenia, O., May 16.—Frank Jenks, a young farmer, was kicked in the head and probably fatally injured by a horse he had just bought. His skull was fractured.

Train Catches Fire. Marlinton, W. Va., May 16.—A south-bound freight train in flames ran 40 miles into Menominee. It caught from a forest fire along the right of way. The fire was extinguished by the city fire department. The most disastrous forest fire in the history of northern Lincoln county is raging in the vicinity of Dudley and Harrison.

QUEEN MOTHER REPORTED ILL

Court And Unofficial Accounts Are At Variance

Program For King's Funeral—Body Will Be Removed From Buckingham Place To Westminster Hall Tomorrow, Where It Will Lie In State—Diplomas And Members Of Royal Household View Remains Today By Invitation—Question Of Precedence Unsettled

London, May 16.—In the throne room of Buckingham palace a solemn vigil is being continuously maintained around the coffin of King Edward, and it will be kept up until the removal to Westminster tomorrow for the public lying-in-state. Picked men from the king's company of the Grenadier guards stand motionless, with arms reversed, around the bier.

Members of the royal family from time to time enter the throne room to pray beside the body. The queen mother is a frequent performer of these silent orisons. The silent statue-like soldiers alone witness her grief on those occasions. While the official reports from the palace unite in stating that she is bearing up under her bereavement as well as can be expected in the circumstances, unofficial reports coming from private sources carry the intimation that she is not as well as she should be in order to face the strain, necessarily painful to her, of the many ceremonies of the week. The foreign diplomats and members of the royal household were admitted to the throne room today, they having received special invitations.

Official Arrangements Announced. The official arrangements for the removal of the body to Westminster hall were made public. King George, with his two eldest sons, will walk in the procession immediately behind the gun carriage on which the coffin will be borne. The foreign royalties now here, as well as the male members of the British family, will also

follow on foot. Queen Mary, the queen mother and the other women of the royal family and their suites will drive in carriages.

The orders for the funeral procession on May 29 have not yet been issued, and until they are officially published the solution of the problem of the precedence of the foreign delegates will not be known. Besides the precedence of rank there is the precedence of kinship to be considered. The position in the procession of the representatives of the two great republics, France and the United States, is a matter of some speculation.

CAR STRIKE STILL ON

East Liverpool, O., May 16.—Although the Newell Street Railway company has agreed to pay the new wage scale the men demand, it refuses to sign an agreement wherein the closed shop is specified. This resulted in a general strike on the road and no cars were operated. An arbitration clause is in the franchise under which the company operates here. The line extends from this city to Newell, W. Va. About 25 men are out.

NO WEDDING BELLS FOR SENATOR BURTON

Washington, May 16.—Strictly speaking, Senator Burton of Ohio may not be a woman-hater, but—preceding a recent function here the society editor of a Washington paper determined to describe the gowns of all the senators' wives present.

"Mr. Senator," she said, as she accosted the Ohio statesman, "will you be kind enough to tell me what sort of a gown Mrs. Burton will wear?" Taking his eyeglasses from his pocket and putting them carefully upon his nose, the senator fixed the girl with a glance that froze her to the spot and frigidly replied: "Mad-

am, there is no Mrs. Burton, and if I have anything to say about it there never will be."

Kills Daughter and Self. Syracuse, N. Y., May 16.—After murdering her 15-year-old daughter Hazel R. Mrs. Emma Chapman, 47, wife of Chief of Police Charles F. Chapman of Baldwinsville, committed suicide. The dual tragedy was enacted in the Chapman home at Baldwinsville. Until two weeks ago Mrs. Chapman was under the care of a specialist at a Syracuse hospital, almost hopelessly insane.

CALIFORNIA TOWNS FEEL EARTH SHOCKS

Los Angeles, Cal., May 16.—This city and surrounding territory were visited by a series of earthquake shocks that alarmed many persons, but did little damage beyond breaking dishes, destroying house ornaments and cracking walls of the lighter houses. Pasadena suffered the heaviest damage so far as reported. Several buildings were cracked, and on Mount Wilson, where the Car-

negle observatory is located, the tremors alarmed many travelers who had climbed the peak to view the comet.

Falls From Boat. Manchester, O., May 16.—Harrison Pool, 24, and married, tripped over a coil of rope on the steamer Glen-dale at Manchester and was drowned. His body was not recovered.